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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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SUBJECT: "The New Refrigerator" - Information from the Extension specialist in home management, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Not great changes...but little improvements that will be used every day.

That's what homemakers of Ithaca, New York would like to see incorporated in the post-war refrigerator...according to a survey conducted by Mrs. Nancy K. Masterman, research associate at Cornell University.

For example...in the new refrigerators...these homemakers want more space for storing frozen foods. Most of them think from 1 to 2 cubic feet of space will be adequate to meet the family's needs.

This space would permit the homemaker to freeze small amounts of fruits and vegetables as they come from the garden. It would also serve as an excellent supplement for locker storage. With room to keep two weeks supply of frozen food on hand... the homemaker would not need to make so many trips to the locker.

The Ithaca homemakers would like to see the space designed so that storage can be arranged to suit the family's special needs. They don't like to be forced to follow the designers' plans right down to the letter. Different families have different needs.

Some other suggestions the Ithaca homemakers offered for improving the new refrigerator are:

A door-latch that can be manuevered with the elbow when both hands are occupied.

Shelves that can be pulled out to give easier access to the food at the back of the refrigerator.

Vegetable hydrators at least 6 inches deep so there's room for a head of cabbage and for a whole melon.

More room for tall milk bottles.

The Ithaca women say they don't care for glass covers on the hydrators. Nor do they like glass shelves in the refrigerator. They find glass is hard to keep clean and it breaks too easily.

Some of the homemakers would like to see a flat top on the refrigerator. The streamlined model - they say - makes it necessary to set food on the floor when they are removing articles from the refrigerator.

Almost half of the women said their present refrigerators are to small to care for the family's food needs.

Along with the suggestions for improvements, many homemakers said they were grateful for the good performance of their refrigerators during the war years. They expressed appreciation for the silent mechanisms and freedom from frequent repair jobs.

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